STI Bulletin Online

A quarterly electronic publication from the NASA Scientific and Technical Information (S T I) Program

APRIL 2003

Top Stories

Debut in the Making

By mid May, the NASA Aeronautics and Space Database, a brand new version of our venerable RECONplus and younger ASAP, will be up and running. We at NASA's Center for AeroSpace Information (CASI) call it a new version because, though the bibliographic data and the NASA MARC tags (or bibliographic record format) are substantially the same, the database software is new and modern. Among the improved features:

For unregistered users at NASA sites

- No log-on, Web-style keyword searching

And for registered users

- Continual database updates, with near real-time availability to users
- Boolean, multi-field searching
- Stored searches and custom output
- Full text in Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF) delivered to user desktops
- Secure, shopping-cart style ordering from within the database.

Registration to the NASA Aeronautics and Space Database is reserved for NASA and its contractors and grantees, other U.S. Government agencies and their contractors and grantees, and foreign exchange partners of NASA.

Watch the NASA STI Website for more information about the database, its features, and availability. See story below about future new features of the publicly available NASA Technical Report Server.

Now Shipping

Subscribers to NASA Research on CD-ROM have by now received two issues and over 1,000 Adobe PDF files of the unclassified and publicly available documents recently added to the STI Database. The CD-ROM subscription service has replaced our microfiche service, which for many years was the best way of providing libraries and other repositories with full text of NASA STI documents. The switch to CD-ROM is part of the STI Program Office's intent to enhance the utility and availability of NASA

research documentation through electronic delivery. The documents can be viewed on and printed from multiple computing platforms. Most are searchable using Acrobat's find feature. All can be sent as email attachments or printed and faxed.

Back Office Events at CASI

The new database is but one part of the culminating reengineering activity this spring.

Livelink, a document management system for improving workflow, electronically routes and tracks documents from intake to database upload including hold processing (e.g., for obtaining the right to copy) and duplicate checking.

On the intake side of the workflow, we are using faster and more accurate scanners and Adobe Capture optical character reader software to create the PDF versions of paper documents. We also improved our method of retrieving the PDF files that document suppliers make available to us.

As part of the effort to improve data quality, we reduced the number of data fields from 299 to 161, standardized the input for nearly 40 fields, and integrated the authority files. Validation software, run during the input process, ensures consistency among the data fields and can autopopulate fields. Both Livelink and BASIS will improve our backfile processing, which includes creation of full-text PDF files and data cleanup.

This spring, we will begin using the extensible markup language (XML) and other extraction tools to generate from the new NASA Aeronautics and Space Database such publications as the current awareness journal *STAR*, the subscription service *NASA Research on CD-ROM*, and the *NASA Video Catalog*.

As you begin to use the database, we welcome your comments and suggestions. E-mail the NASA STI Help Desk at help@sti.nasa.gov. Please put NASA Aeronautics and Space Database in the subject line.

Improved NASA Technical Report Server also on the Horizon

NASA is currently updating and enhancing the NASA Technical Report Server (NTRS) to provide the public with access to NASA documents. Coming on line in late April 2003, by early 2004, the NTRS will contain bibliographic (meta) data of unclassified/unlimited (non-copyrighted) NASA documents along with the full-text of many of those documents. The digital full-text documents will be in Adobe's PDF format and will be free of charge. Until the full archive can be scanned and digitized, documents that are not yet available digitally will be available in paper for a minimal fee from NASA CASI. Look for more news about NTRS on the NASA STI Website.

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NASA Centers and CASI News

Center for AeroSpace Information

Phillip French, Document Evaluator, retired from CASI in March with over 30 years of service. After retiring from the U.S. Air Force as a navigator, Mr. French began work at CASI as an abstractor/indexer and translator of German documents. In 1975, when NASA turned over the task of deciding which documents should be included in the STI databases to the contractor, Mr. French became CASI's long-standing document evaluator.

Goddard Space Flight Center

Goddard Library Wins Federal Library of the Year Award 2002

On March 19, 2003, the Library of Congress' Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) honored the Goddard Library with its Federal Library of the Year Award 2002 at the annual FLICC Forum held at the Library of Congress. The award recognizes the library "for its promotion of various innovative technologies and approaches to knowledge management" and "for eliminating the boundaries between traditional library support and the need for preserving knowledge unique to the Goddard Space Flight Center."

The Librarian of Congress, James Billington, awarded the plaque to Janet Ormes, Head, Library Information Services Branch and Assistant Chief Information Officer, and Linda Rosenberg, Chief Information Officer. A separate plaque, which recognizes each year's recipients, is displayed at the FLICC offices at the Library of Congress.

The selection was based on the FY2002 achievements of the Library in the areas of mission support, creativity and innovation in services, and customer satisfaction. Highlights from the nomination note that the Goddard Library

- has an extensive and interactive Website that supports the research initiatives at Goddard.
- in FY2002, developed the capability to Web-cast Goddard colloquia. The Library is actively involved in digitally archiving and preserving Goddard's colloquia.
- maintains the successful IMAGES digital archiving project.
- developed a Web-based project directory that provides unified search accessibility.
- partnered with groups who are furthering knowledge management at Goddard and hosted an event showcasing Goddard's knowledge management initiatives and projects.
- uses a visiting committee of experts in library and information science to analyze and evaluate both library operations and the library's success in meeting the Goddard mission.
- receives high marks from customers for all services provided.
- was one of the first Federal libraries to have a publicly available Website.

- actively seeks partnerships through consortia to better provide access to otherwise cost-prohibitive electronic resources.

The Federal Library and Information Center Committee fosters excellence in Federal library and information services through interagency cooperation and provides guidance and direction for the Federal Library and Information Network (FEDLINK). The Federal Library of the Year Award was established to recognize and commend outstanding, innovative, and sustained achievements during a particular fiscal year by a Federal library or information center.

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FOCUS ON...The Centennial of Flight

The mother of all of NASA's aerospace databases grew out of Wilbur and Orville Wright's need for correct data from which they could calculate the proper wing shape and size for their flying machine. In 1903, when they finished collecting data from the wind tunnel they designed and built, they had the largest and most reliable-as their results would soon prove-database of airfoil and lifting information in the world.

Following the Wright brothers' example of keen observation and careful analysis, researchers at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) and its successor agency, NASA, have collected and published aerodynamic data and computational analyses for over 8 decades. That work has helped complete the aerodynamic theory and has allowed efficient designs of air and spacecraft, power generators, wind turbines, and even shapes that move through water.

Through NASA's information databases, you have access to the NACA and NASA documents and the bibliographic information of works from other many research organizations. A cursory search of the STI databases shows these aeronautics-related items:

- Oldest: CASI document ID 19930091026. Report on Behavior of Aeroplanes in Gusts. NACA-TR-1.
- Newest (as of the last upload): CASI document ID 20030016511. CFD Variability for a Civil Transport Aircraft near Buffet-Onset Conditions. NASA/TM-2003-212149.
- Flight in out of this world places: CASI document ID 2003000060. Solar Flight on Mars and Venus.
- Flight near the top of our world: CASI document ID 20020063556. Meteorological Support of the Helios World Record High Altitude Flight to 96,863 Feet. NASA/TM-2002-210727.

Here are some questions for our readers: What at your location is the most popular (most requested) older document in the STI databases? And what is the most talked about newer aerodynamics topic? Send your answers to stibull@sti.nasa.gov. We'll include them in the next issue.

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Links to a few of the NASA's Centennial of Flight Websites:

- Across the Curriculum With the Wright Brothers
- Interactive Wright 1901 Wind Tunnel
- Re-Living the Wright Way
- The Wright Brothers page
- Wright Flyer Online

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Other News

New Publications from the NASA History Office

Go to the NASA History Office's New Publications Web page for more information about these titles and for a list of newly available electronic NASA history resources.

Looking Backward, Looking Forward: Forty Years of U.S. Human Spaceflight Symposium edited by Stephen J. Garber. (NASA SP-2002-4107).
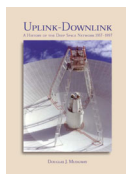
Wilbur and Orville Wright: A Bibliography Commemorating the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the First Powered Flight on December 17, 1903 by Arthur G. Renstrom (NASA SP-2002-4527) is Monograph in Aerospace History #27.

The Secret of Apollo: Systems Management in American and European Space Programs by Stephen B. Johnson (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002)

The Mission Transcript Collection: U.S. Human Spaceflight Missions From Mercury Redstone 3 to Apollo 17 (NASA SP-2000-4602)

Deep Space Chronicle: A Chronology of Deep Space and Planetary Probes 1958-200 by Asif A. Siddiqi (NASA SP-2002-4524)

Uplink-Downlink: A History of the Deep Space Network, 1957-1997 by Douglas J. Mudgway (Washington, D.C.: NASA SP-2001-4227, 2002).

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